NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
November 20, 1998

STEVE McCARROLL
1963 - 1998

It is with great sadness that I report that **Steve McCarroll** passed away early Saturday morning, November 14, after several months of battling a brain tumor and AIDS-complex infections. Many of his museum friends were able to visit with Steve over that time, bringing him deep comfort, and his parents (Roy and Joan), brother (David), and partner (John Buranosky) were with him constantly throughout the past few weeks. Steve was a scientist to the end, insisting on knowing the composition and effects of every medication and correcting hospital staff when they got things wrong. Steve's death was quiet and gentle, as befits the kind of person he was. While it pains us to realize that he is no longer with us, his life brought great joy to many.

Steve joined the Museum on January 3, 1989, following an undergraduate Geology degree at Auburn University (in his home state of Alabama) and graduate study in mammalian evolution at the University of Illinois – Chicago. Steve was an exceptionally skilled preparator, and he often was given some of the most challenging and delicate specimens to prepare – his nine months of solid labor on the unique fossil monkey skull *Chilecebus* (on display outside *Life Over Time*) is a fine example of his persistence and ability. His job also included collections management, and his academic background in systematics and paleontology enabled Steve to go well beyond the call of duty in this area. Steve was a key member of The Field Museum's six most recent paleontological expeditions to the Washakie Basin in Wyoming.

In fact, by the middle of that project Steve had become a true co-leader, involved in every aspect of its organization, collections preparation and management, and publication. On his own time, Steve also spearheaded the research efforts, leading to his primary authorship of two key scientific papers (one in *Fieldiana*) and several abstracts on the Washakie Basin.

Continued inside

FIELD NOTES
Week of November 23

Public Events/Special Events

Motorcycle Film Series
- Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10 a.m., MWH

THANKSGIVING DAY
- Thursday, November 26

Celebracion
- Friday, Saturday, Sunday
11 a.m., SFH

Family Overnight
- Friday 5:45 p.m.

Staff/Volunteer Events

Farewell party for Stephen Bell
- Monday 3 p.m., LH2

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday and Thursday 5 p.m.
Outside Philippines Exhibit

THERE WILL BE NO *NATURAL NEWS* NEXT FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27 DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.

The deadline for the December 4 issue will be 12 noon on Tuesday, December 1.

SAVE A DATE
"HOLIDAY FEST"

This year's Holiday Fest (staff and volunteer party) will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 1998 in Stanley Field Hall beginning at 5:00p.m. You will be receiving your invitation soon. When you receive your invitation, you will notice that we ask you to please *RSVP* to **Joanna Surveyor** in the Human Resources Office by December 4, 1998. We highly encourage that you make your family members and friends a part of this wonderful event. Guest admission is $5 per person - please pay Joanna (ext. 356) in the HR office. Independent contractors and others affiliated with Museum may come to the Fest by paying the $5 guest admission. We will also have caricature artists available again from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the "fest"ivities this year!

ATTENTION ALL STAFF

Although comments about our Food Services are always welcomed and should be directed to me, in order for me to respond appropriately and to have a full understanding of what's happening, I do need to have the writer of the letter indicate who they are so I can respond. Your name will remain confidential.

Submitted by **Laura Sadler**, Director of Auxiliary Services

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I am seeking a Fed Ex parcel which was delivered to the Museum last Thursday and logged in but was missing at the end of the day when I went to retrieve it from shipping. The package, which should be no larger than a pc hard drive, was shipped from L.L. Bean and addressed to **Robert Weiglein** in the Exhibits Department here at the Museum. Anyone with any information please call me at ext. 416. Thanks for any help you can give.

Submitted by **Robert Weiglein**

To my Field Museum friends:

Many thanks for thinking of me while I am recovering from my hip surgery. Your prayers, flowers, cards and telephone calls are very much appreciated. Thanks for your thoughtfulness.

Wayne Gerdes

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!

The Queen is awaiting the arrival of

Laura and Steve Gates!

Please join us for

a farewell toast

Thursday, December 10th

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

The Field Museum

Stanley Field Hall

Judy and John McCarter

Please reply to Stephanie Powell
312-922-9410 extension 846

Parking available
in Museum's East lot

Education bids farewell to Stephen Bell

Come join the Education Department staff as we say goodbye to **Stephen Bell**, Public Programs Coordinator, on Monday, November 23, from 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in Lecture Hall II. Help us wish Stephen all the best in his new endeavors!

Questions, please call **Beth Adams** at ext. 575 or **Lisa Niziolek** at ext. 247.

Submitted by **Lisa Niziolek**

Tickets for Women's Board Holiday Tea

The Social Events Committee recently distributed a survey regarding the Holiday Tea. We had requested an approximate count of those who were interested in attending for free. Due to the great response we received, we are unable to provide free tickets as previously expected. Tickets will be available to staff at a discounted price of $10/adults and $5/children (under 3 years old are admitted free of charge). You may pick up your tickets in the Women's Board office. The Holiday Tea will be held on Wednesday, December 2 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Please reserve your tickets early. This event has been a sellout in the past and tickets are on a first-come basis.

Submitted by the Social Events Committee

Shedd's free day to change

The Shedd Aquarium is changing its free day to Monday (from Thursday) effective January 1, 1999. The Shedd expects to capture more paid summer admissions this way and to improve the quality of the visit by spreading out its attendance more evenly.

Submitted by **Fay Hartog Levin**

$$ FINANCE FORUM $$

As reported earlier, the Finance Department has been involved in the selection of a new financial and procurement software system during the past months. The selection was completed in September, with Lawson Software chosen to provide the new software packages, and Deloitte & Touche providing the project management of the implementation. Kickoff meetings for the software implementation project were held with both the Finance Department and Administrative Docket in November. These meetings were held in order to set expectations regarding the project, discuss the project timeline, and outline the approach that will be taken towards successful implementation.

The "Go-Live" dates for completion of this implementation are targeted for February 1999 for the financial software suite, and April 1999 for the procurement software suite. As a result, the Finance Department staff began taking training classes at Lawson's facility in Westchester, IL, in the beginning of November. In addition, the Finance Department purchased the hardware necessary to support Lawson's software, and will be installing this hardware at the end of November. Other upcoming events include establishment of security on the system and the conversion of data. The Finance Department will release further bulletins as events progress during this important infrastructure enhancement.

Reminder: In order to ensure that 1998 purchase order expenses hit our 1998 budget, please have all purchase orders in **Tom Geary**'s office no later than Friday, November 27. Purchase orders with November dates on them will be charged to your 1998 budget (assuming of course that your budget is not overspent). Purchase orders received in December and after will hit the year in which title to the goods or service is received. If you have a question please call **Tom Geary** at ext. 278.

MUSEUM CAMPUS CHICAGO
FREE TROLLEY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Hop on Museum Campus Chicago's free trolley system to connect to the Adler Planetarium, the Shedd Aquarium, the parking lots or the Roosevelt Road "L" stop (orange, green, and red lines) and the Metra IC Roosevelt stop. Catch the trolley outside The Field Museum's south entrance at the bottom of the stairs. Wheelchair accessible trolleys will be available each day that the free service is running.

Trolleys run every Saturday and Sunday through December 13, 1998, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ***During the Thanksgiving holiday, the trolleys will also be in service on Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27*** *(trolley service will begin at noon on 11/27).* During the December holidays, the trolleys will be in service from Monday, December 13 through Sunday, January 3. (Trolleys are not in service during Chicago Bears football games and Soldier Field events 11/29, 12/20 and 12/27).

If you have any questions, please call **Christina Breslow** at ext. 323.

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum
Presents:

Modern Celestial Navigation

Instructor Bob Peterson, Great Lakes Compass

Are you relying exclusively on the Global Positioning System, with no back-up if your electronics fail? Wish to improve your navigation skills and gain more confidence on the water? This course introduces celestial navigation as a means of determining latitude and longitude. Learn to identify the basic navigation stars and to use a sextant for celestial sights. We will also cover celestial coordinates, time measurements, the navigation triangle and use of the Nautical Almanac.

You will need to acquire a 1999 Nautical Almanac, basic navigation tools (parallel rules, divider, etc.), a trigonometric function calculator, and a quartz watch. Students are expected to be comfortable already with coastwise navigation skills, though if you are rusty we will review the basics. (Eight sessions)

Wednesdays
January 6 - February 24 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Only $100 (Alder Members $95)

Call Maria Mau at 312/322-0551 for
Registration and Information

Introducing the Strategic Planning Process

By now, you will all have heard something about The Field Museum's new strategic planning process.

The truth is, we have more opportunities right now than we have the human, physical, or financial resources to take advantage of—for example, virtual exhibits, state-of-the-art storage facilities, an educational pavilion, a program to create traveling exhibits, environmental initiatives, and convenient parking. One of the greatest strengths of The Field Museum is the deep sense of commitment which staff and trustees share. I have invited the trustees, who are all experienced leaders in their fields, to provide guidance on which opportunities make the most sense for us.

The phrase "strategic planning" summons images of radical change and endless analysis, and it sometimes makes people think that everything is up for grabs. It is not. All the basic pillars of this institution will remain intact — research, collections, education, and exhibits. You have made parts of these departments the best in the world, and I hope this strategic planning will help us become world class across the board.

Sandy Boyd led the Museum in a strategic planning effort in 1991. One of the outcomes of that process is the robust mission statement we now have. This is not the time to rewrite that statement. What we are engaging in now is a different sort of exercise, a complementary process aimed at tapping the expertise of the trustees and the staff in a new way.

Who is working on the strategic plan?

We have asked the trustees to serve on eleven teams focusing on key strategic topics, such as research, collections, exhibits, funding, and information technology. We have also invited staff members to join the trustee teams and share their expertise on these issues. These staff members are the interface which makes it possible for the trustees to access the Museum's resources.

In addition, there is a Secretariat whose job it is to monitor the planning process and to ensure that information flows smoothly between staff and trustees. Please feel free to call or e-mail any of the people below with your questions or contributions. Your participation and cooperation will make this effort successful.

Staff Leader	Focus Team
Rüdiger Bieler	Collections
Peter Crane	Research
Jim Croft	Footprint
Rich Faron	Permanent Exhibits
Melissa Hilton	Marketing, Positioning & Retail Initiatives
Tim Krauskopf	Communication & Information Technologies
Debra Moskovits	Environment
Mary Ellen Munley	Education

Sophia Shaw	Traveling Exhibits
Felisia Wesson	Governance
Willard White	Funding

Secretariat

Mark Alvey	Academic Affairs
Dana Brink	Finance
Jennifer Eagleton	Education
Gail Loveman	President's Office
Clare Muñana	Ulanov Partnership
Alexander Sherman	President's Office
Abigail Sinwell	Museum Affairs
Nicholas Ulanov	Ulanov Partnership
Felisia Wesson	General Counsel
Willard White	Institutional Advancement
Dina Zissimopoulos	Education

What has happened so far?

We started the ball rolling with a presentation to the Board of Trustees in September on the key strengths and growth opportunities of the Museum. Following that, we solicited input from the various departments. What emerged from these discussions was a long list of strategic issues that capture all the wonderful opportunities currently open to us.

In the beginning of November an advisory committee of trustees met to gather additional experience and perspectives on strategic planning. The staff members serving on the focus teams have already begun to meet. Now the full focus teams are preparing to meet.

What comes next?

Starting in December, the staff-trustee focus teams will convene periodically until a special May 1999 retreat of the Board of Trustees which will analyze and integrate the teams' recommendations.

Many people, staff and trustees alike, will be spending a great deal of time on the strategic planning effort in the coming months, but The Field Museum will be very well rewarded by this extra effort.

If there are any issues you are concerned are not being addressed, we encourage you to contribute your perspective to a focus team leader or to a member of the Secretariat. Thank you for your time and attention on this important endeavor.

Submitted by **John McCarter**

THE STEVE McCARROLL BENEFIT AUCTION

We've counted so far $12,700, with a bit more due in. Wow!

Most of you have been telephoned individually about the results of the auction. **Marlene** is out for jury duty but will finish up on Monday. Congratulations all!

A few of the spectacular items which brought in the highest bids at auction were **Peggy MacNamara's** watercolor of a flightless bird; **Greg Buckley's** donation of Hairy Armadillo and his friend; an image of Sue's skull from the recent CT scan; **Mike Paha**'s biokinetic wall relief sculpture; **Wang-fai Wong**'s ink and color painting on rice paper; two banners from the *Spiders!* exhibit; a Charles Knight folio containing a set of black-and-white prints; and a fishing lure hand-hewn by **Paul Brunsvold**.

Honors go to both **Liz Kantorski** and **Mike Paha** for being the most creative and diverse donors. For sheer atmosphere, the tyrannosaur claw from **Bill Simpson**, the photos of **Steve** from **John Weinstein**, and the winged titanothere hood ornaments from **Andrew** couldn't be beat.

AND... So many to thank, and so much to thank them for:

Thanks for scrupulous cashiering by **Lisa Bergwall, Greg Buckley, Matt Groves, Jim Holstein**, and **Carter O'Brien**.

The food committee -- **Deborah Bakken, Rick Blob, Doreen Covey, Fui Lian Inger, Anne Kehoe, Jola Kobylinska, Sue Munson, Clarita Nuñez, Suzy Slominski, Michi Solomon, Hedy Turnbull, Tyana Wachter** -- are so very gratefully appreciated.

The same goes for the drinks committee -- **Cassy Redhed, Martha Redhed, Fui Lian Inger, Mary Anne Rogers**, and **Bill Stanley**, for pouring it out and raking it in (**Janet**, that must have been a specially good one).

Spotters and runners **Robin Wagner, Mike Paha**, and **Rebecca Conant** did a great job of displaying the objects, and catching all bids.

Grateful thanks to A/V, Engineering, Housekeeping, Public Services, Security, and Visitor Services. All these departments donated their time, personnel, and resources, with extra help needed for a last-minute influx of donated items. This goes also for **Bill Simpson** (Geology), **Howard Gray, Judy Espinal, Anita Joiner, Melvin Phillips, Eddie Redwood, George Robinson, Shirlee Simmons, Centel Green,** and **Jennifer Hutchinson** (Housekeeping), and **John Foos** and **Jason Brunner** (Visitor Services).

Thanks to all you donors for some top-notch items, and to you spirited bidders for top-notch sale prices.

Special thanks go to **Lionel Dunn** for the evening's music.

Mark, you were great, just great.

Submitted by **Elaine Zeiger** and **Marlene Donnelly**, Geology

THE SILENT AUCTION WILL CONTINUE ON DECEMBER 11
AT HAPPY HOUR IN THE ZOOLOLOGY CLASSROOM

THE BELLY DANCER WILL DANCE, THE BAGPIPER WILL PIPE
AND THE CHILI COOK-OFF WILL SIMMER.

McCARROLL from page 1

But Steve was more than a paleontologist – he was dedicated to every aspect of The Field Museum, diving into public programs and providing assistance to colleagues throughout the museum anytime they asked.

Steve also was enamored of food and good company. For a time Steve was a partner and chef in a successful North Side restaurant, and he contributed many memorable dishes to museum parties and our Annual Cookbook. I still recall Steve's passionate efforts (with help from fellow-Alabamian Robin Whatley) to convince our field crews of the culinary delights of the southern specialty – canned boiled peanuts. While Steve was a great cook, both at home and in the field, if you have never sampled boiled peanuts, I highly recommend that you not heed this particular piece of Steve's kitchen wisdom.

The benefit auction held in honor of Steve on Monday, November 16 was an amazing success, attended by a huge crowd from all parts of the Museum. Your generosity raised more than $12,700 to defray the major expenses accumulated by Steve's family over the course of his illness (see details on the next page). A memorial service for Steve will be held at the Museum at a later date. Condolences may be sent to Roy and Joan McCarroll, 118 Ann Street, Enterprise, AL 36330 and John Buranosky, 5316 N. Clark, 2R, Chicago, IL 60640.

Steve was an exceptional colleague and a great friend, loved by many and missed by all.

Submitted by **John Flynn**

U.S. honors Congressman Sidney Yates with $2 million gift to Field Museum

In October, Congress appropriated $2 million to establish the Sidney and Addie Yates Exhibition Center at The Field Museum. The new exhibition center will serve as a highly visible tribute to retiring Illinois Representative Sidney B. Yates after nearly 50 years of service to the people of northern Illinois.

The Museum wished to honor Yates and his wife Addie for their long-standing commitment to The Field Museum and the cultural life of Chicago. Campaign Chairman and President Emeritus Willard L. "Sandy" Boyd, a long-term friend of the Yates, praised the Congressman for his efforts on behalf of the arts, humanities, and museums, saying "It is fitting to recognize him in his home city which has benefited enormously by his renowned leadership.

Submitted by **Fay Hartog Levin**
excerpted from an article by **Mark Schmeltzer**
to be published in the upcoming *Connect* Magazine

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Bieler's snail project will sink even lower

Rüdiger Bieler (Zoology) and Research Associate **Paula Mikkelsen** just learned that their proposal for submersible support in their project on "Molluscan Biodiversity in the Florida Keys" has been approved by National Geographic's Society's Sustainable Seas Expeditions (SSE) program.

National Geographic's "SSE" is a five-year, public-private effort to use manned submersibles to explore the coastal waters of the United States, with emphasis on the nation's National Marine Sanctuaries. Spear-headed by National Geographic's Sylvia Earle, the goals of the expeditions are to create awareness of the inextricable link between human health and ocean health, to inspire an ocean ethic, to assist in the development of ocean monitoring protocols, and the establishment of a national system of ocean monitoring sites. SSE has been funded by an initial grant from the San Francisco-based Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund, complemented by additional financial and outreach support from the National Geographic Society. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has committed personnel, ship support, and other in-kind services and expertise. Several additional institutions have indicated their willingness to provide additional assistance to SSE, including the US Navy, NASA (Mission to Planet Earth), Jason Foundation, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Mote Marine Laboratory, Center for Marine Conservation, SeaWeb, Education Management Group, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Rüdiger and Paula (who already have an established Smithsonian/NOAA-supported research program in the Keys to study reef habitats by SCUBA diving) responded to National Geographic's call for collaborative SSE projects. Two manned "DeepWorker" submersibles will allow the targeted collecting of deeper reef structures, particularly in the Dry Tortugas region. The dives (scheduled for August of 1999) will concentrate on areas too deep for traditional SCUBA diving and too fragile to be explored by dredging.

Reese speaks at SUNY Albany

David S. Reese (Anthropology) was recently an invited speaker at an international conference on "The Earliest Prehistory of Cyprus: From Colonization to Exploitation" at the State University of New York at Albany. SUNY Albany is unique in America in having an Institute of Cypriote Studies, the major sponsor of the conference. Reese spoke on "Faunal Remains from Akrotiri-Aetokremnos." The book on that excavation (Faunal Extinction in an Island Society: Pygmy Hippopotamus Hunters of Cyprus) will be published in mid 1996 by Plenum Press. The conference proceedings will also be published.

Tuesday at Noon Seminar Series continues

On November 17 Satie Airamé, graduate student with the Committee on Evolutionary Biology, spoke to us about her studies of streamside frogs in Borneo. By comparing habitats in the pristine rain forest and nearby agricultural land, she was able to monitor effects on different species of frogs during normal (rainy) weather and the dry "El Niño" event. The dry period had a variety of effects on the different species, but it was clear that there were far fewer species in the agricultural area than in the rain forest, regardless of weather.

Our next seminar will be on December 8 when **Olivier Rieppel** will speak to us on "The Aquatic Origin of Turtles."

Submitted by **Bill Burger**